



National Weather Service
Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service
Interactive Training Workshop in North Dakota
April 21-22, 2003



Bismarck, N.D. was the site of this year's first interactive training workshop with the users of hydrologic information. On April 20-21, 2003, staff from Bismarck and Grand Forks offices attended this workshop along with representatives from north-central RFC and CRH HSD. The objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for our users to (a) explain what we have done to organize hydrologic information, (b) to understand their hydrologic information needs, and (c) to elicit suggestions for changes and improvements in current practices.

The workshop was attended by about 35 representatives from U. S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, various agencies of the North Dakota state government including Divisions of Water, Emergency Management, Public Works, Natural Resources, and Game and Fish, local water resource boards, and several city and county officials. After a short presentation on organization of information under AHPS, the users were invited to provide their views in an open discussion.

Some of the participants were already familiar with the new web pages and structure of information. They had some specific questions for the representative from NCRFC about the forecasting process. They appreciated the convenience and coverage of information.

There was some interest in inundation mapping to enable users to see the potential and actual flooding. Use of geographical information system to display flood and inundation information was discussed with potential for collaboration.

The participants expressed their appreciation for our efforts to reach out and explain the forecasting process.

In conjunction with this workshop, NWS also participated in the First International Water Conference organized by the Red River Basin Institute in Fargo-Moorhead from April 23-25. The conference theme was *Water, Science, and Decision-making*. Papers explaining Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, especially, infusion of new science and technology and hydrologic forecasting were presented. More than 170 people attended the conference. Minneapolis office had set up a booth explaining AHPS program and various information resources available under it.